

(iv) Strengthening and equipping the microbiological laboratories and also as contingencies for production of rhizobium culture in large quantities for supply to the farmers.

(v) Assistance is also provided for requisite staff and other contingencies.

The subsidy on production and distribution of certified seed and plant protection operational charges is provided on 100 per cent basis by Government of India. The expenditure on other items is being shared on 50:50 basis by the centre and State Governments.

Rise to support price of agricultural commodities

351. SHEI YOGENDRA SHAR-
MA: SHRI M.
KALYANASUNDA-
RAM: SHRI INDRADEEP
SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the support price of major agricultural commodities for the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the existing minimum support price of each commodity and the increased/ proposed price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN). (a) and (b) The Agricultural Prices Commission has been directed to re-work the prices of major agricultural commodities beginning the kharif, 1980 so as to fully compensate the farmers for extra investment they will have to make on fertiliser, etc., due to price rise. The existing minimum support / procurement prices, i.e. for 1979-80 together with the prices, for 1980-81 are as under:

	(Rs. per quintal)	
	1979-80 (fixed by Govt.)	1980-81
Paddy	95.00	Not fixed
Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi	95.00	Not fixed
Wheat	115.00	117.00 (fixed by Govt.)
Gram	140.00	145.00 (fixed by Govt.)
Arhar	165.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Moong	175.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Urad	175.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Cotton (Kapas)	275.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Jute (Raw)	155.00	160.00 (fixed by Govt.)
Groundnut in shell	198.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Soyabean	175.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Sunflower seed	175.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Mustard seed	245.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Onion	40.00	Not fixed by Govt.
Tobacco	No announcement	Not fixed by Govt.
Sugarcane	12.50	Not fixed by Govt.